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HOUSE RESOLUTION 151
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Dr. Jean Christine Williams Smith for her laudable public service as Grand Daughter Ruler of the Improved Benevolent Protection Order of Elks of the World.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should applaud those persons who, through their civic and professional efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, these esteemed individuals have had praiseworthy accomplishments and are credits to their respective families and communities, and to this state; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jean Christine Williams Smith is one such remarkable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dr. Smith attended Temple University where she studied Health and Physical Education, and has received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Livingstone College in North Carolina; and

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WHEREAS, after college, Dr. Smith rendered thirty-two years of admirable service with the Philadelphia Department of Recreation; and

WHEREAS, she was also a feature article writer for *Today's Girl Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure in public service, Dr. Smith has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has been an active and integral member of her community; she founded and served as the first director of the Performing Arts Camp conducted at the world famous Robin Hood Dell, was an articulate guest lecturer on recreation at many colleges and universities in the Philadelphia area, and trained Peace Corps workers at Lincoln University in Oxford, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, currently serving as the Grand Daughter Ruler of the Improved Benevolent Protection Order of Elks of the World, Dr. Smith is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has lent her incredible talents and skills to the Grand Temple as the Grand Gatekeeper, Grand Doorkeeper, Grand Assistant Escort, Grand Escort, Grand Chaplin, Grand Assistant Daughter Ruler, Grand Vice-Daughter Ruler, and Grand Assistant Directress of the Beauty and Talent Department and Rainy Day Department; and

WHEREAS, she also astutely served the Pennsylvania State Association Auxiliary as the State Directress of the Beauty and Talent Department for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is a quintessential "pillar of the community"; and

WHEREAS, appointed Grand Daughter Ruler in August of 1985 in St. Louis, Missouri, she has also served the Shining Light Council No. 2 of East Pennsylvania as the organizer of the Lelia V. Fultz Friendship Circle and Council Bylaw Committee; and

WHEREAS, She has been a distinguished member of the Pride of North Philadelphia Temple No. 657, serving as its Daughter Ruler, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, Auditor, and Junior Guardian for the Temple's Junior Temple; and

WHEREAS, despite a busy schedule, Dr. Smith still finds time to participate in a number of other community organizations; she is a charter member of Zeresh Chapter No. 103, Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation of Philadelphia, and a member of Pyramid Court No. 17, Daughter of Isis, the NAACP, and the YWCA; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith epitomizes the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true citizen patriot; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has displayed tremendous leadership abilities as Vice-President and a member of the Womens Committee of District Council No. 47 of AFSCME, a participant in the Baptist State Convention, and the Eastern Region of the Women's Auxiliary of Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention; and

WHEREAS, for her many meritorious contributions, Dr. Smith has received several coveted awards, including the Philadelphia Department of Recreation Employee of the Year Award, the Service Citation for twenty-five years of service from the City of Philadelphia, the Charity Award from Pyramid Temple No. 1, the National Civil Service League Award, and the Ebony Diamond Award; and

WHEREAS, a well-respected professional, Jean Smith, in addition to being a highly valued resident of her own community, is also an honorary citizen of other cities, including Selma and Montgomery, Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana. She has also received special recognition from the great communities of Tarrant County, Texas; Warren, Ohio; Ogden, Utah; Opelousas, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; and the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has been honored by the U.S. House of Representatives of the 103rd Congress, and has been designated as an honorary member of the Louisiana State Senate and the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, in addition to serving as an Honorary Deputy Sheriff of Trumbull County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, loving the Lord and endeavoring to lead an exemplary Christian life, Jean Smith faithfully worships as an active and devout member of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, on March 18 of this year, Dr. Jean Smith will be honored at the National Luncheon of the National Deputies Conference of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World in Chattanooga, where she will be welcomed as the Grand Daughter Ruler by the members of the Armistice Temple #364 and Armistice #440; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is one of the most dynamic and inspirational leaders of women today; she charts a positive course for the thousands of African American women who are committed to serving their respective communities, states, and this nation in a positive manner, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Jean Christine Williams Smith, Grand Daughter Ruler of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, for her meritorious contributions to her community, her nation, and her fellow African American citizens, and extend our best wishes for much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.